



# What we're doing in New Hampshire

U.S. EPA | STORMWATER OUTREACH AT EPA NEW ENGLAND



**STORMWATER** is a leading cause of poor water quality. Rain or melted snow runs down driveways, sidewalks and streets carrying oil, dirt and other pollutants into nearby waterways. Polluted runoff, which can cause erosion and flooding, runs into waterways and degrades plants, fish, shellfish and other wildlife. In water used for recreation, the runoff can lead to illness, and people who eat contaminated fish can also become sick. Untreated stormwater can also contaminate drinking water sources.

## INTRO:

All stormwater discharge permits in New Hampshire are issued by EPA and certified by the state. These discharge permits, issued through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, are required for construction sites disturbing more than an acre, certain industrial sites and certain municipal sewer systems. Towns and cities with a permit must create a program to manage their stormwater.

## TO MANAGE STORMWATER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WE ARE:

**Reducing chloride pollution** — New targets have been set by New Hampshire for how much chloride can be discharged into waters near the I-93 highway corridor in southern New Hampshire. These targets established in EPA-approved "total maximum daily loads" (TMDLs), reflect how much chloride can be safely discharged into these waters. These TMDLs represent the first time allocations have been developed for chloride discharges in New England. The I-93 TMDLs apply to four watersheds that are affected by salt running off the highway, as well as off other areas, such as parking lots, storage facilities and other roads. A salt reduction workgroup made up of interested parties, including federal, state and local agencies, is working together to develop innovative ways to address chloride contamination in these watersheds.

**Studying stormwater at UNH** — The nationally recognized University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center studies stormwater treatment processes, demonstrates technology and holds workshops to help stormwater managers. For more information, refer to <http://www.unh.edu/erg/cstev/index.htm>.

**Working together** — Regional stormwater coalitions in Nashua, Manchester and the Seacoast of New Hampshire are working together to help towns in their region comply with stormwater discharge permits.

**Studying the impacts** — A Stormwater Commission and a Land Use Commission formed by the state are studying the effects of stormwater and stormwater management.

**Directing policy** — State land use regulations, called "Alteration of Terrain Rules," encourage development that protects lakes, rivers, oceans and groundwater. Recent changes to the state's shoreland development statute requires a permit for many construction activities occurring near protected water bodies. The new program limits the amount of paved area within the shoreland zone and requires a 50-foot setback from the shore for building.

**Creating rain gardens and natural filters** — The towns of Goffstown and Peterborough are using porous pavement and rain gardens to help absorb rainwater. The Silver Lake Land Trust in Harrisville is putting gravel and plants along roadways and the shoreline, and reconstructing its boat ramp to address both erosion and sedimentation problems. Sanbornton is restoring natural stream channels and crossings to more naturally control stormwater.\*

**Monitoring water quality** — Working through New Hampshire's Lake Assessment and River Assessment programs, volunteers help protect the state's lakes and rivers by conducting monitoring activities. These "volunteer monitors" gather data on water quality to help biologists, communities and environmental groups make better decisions about lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

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